

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02387 01 OF 02 261458Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /056 W
-----125972 270541Z /14

R 261414Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8535
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2387

NAIROBI FOR MATHERON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, ET
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNION REPLACES ENTIRE LEADERSHIP

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2363 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU) "ELECTED" NEW
9-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 25 AFTER EMERGENCY
MEETING DURING WHICH FORMER AETU LEADERS CONDEMNED AND
DISMISSED. CHAGEOVER REPRESENTS FURTHER DECLINE OF
CIVILIAN MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP, ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIAL-
IST MOVEMENT (AESM OR ME'I SONE), OF WHICH RECENTLY
DEPARTED NEGEDE GOBEZIE WAS MAJOR FIGURE. SOVIET AND
EAST GERMAN (GDR) INVOLVEMENT IS UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTINUING EFFORT TO ELIMINATE ALL ETHIOPIAN
SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (AESM OR ME'I SONE) FROM CIVILIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02387 01 OF 02 261458Z

POLITICAL COMPETITION, ON MAY 25 ALL ETHIOPIAN
TRADE UNION (AETU) DISMISSED ALL FORMER OFFICE
HOLDERS FROM AETU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTER 37-HOUR
EMERGENCY MEETING AND REPLACED THEM WITH NEW NINE-MEMBER
COMMITTEE. AMONG REASONS GIVEN FOR CHANGE WERE COR-
RUPTION, POLITICAL SABOTAGE, ABUSES OF AUTHORITY,
ADVANCEMENT OF SELF-INTEREST, EXERCISE OF DIC-

TATORIAL POWERS AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BY ME'I SONE-AFFILIATED LEADERS OF AETU. NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS ELECTED TO MEET CHALLENGE FACING AETU IN ITS ROLE FOR EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PROLETARIAN PARTY.

2. AETU STATEMENT ANNOUNCING DISSOLUTION OF FORMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS INTERESTING IN ITS FORTHRIGHT DENOUNCEMENT OF ME'I SONE AS A WHOLE, DROPPING PRETENSE OF ME'I SONE "RIGHT-ROADERS" AS ONLY ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES WITHIN ME'I SONE. SLOGAN PREVIOUSLY PROMULGATED BY ME'I SONE, "DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS FOR THE MASSES, NOW", WAS LABELLED SUBVERSIVE BECAUSE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH STRUGGLE, NOT "DELIVERED ON SILVER PLATTER." AETU WAS ALLEGEDLY UNDER "IRON GRIP OF FEW AMBITIOUS PSEUDO-PROGRESSIVE INDIVIDUALS OPPOSED TO CONCEPT OF UNION OF ETHIOPIAN MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATIONS (UEMLO)." THESE INDIVIDUALS FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS ME'I SONE AND CONDEMNED FOR CHANNELING FUNDS OBTAINED THROUGH AETU TO ME'I SONE GROUP, "WHICH HAD BETRAYED THE REVOLUTION."

3. FOLLOWING 37-HOUR SESSION, NEW AETU LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY WAS DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED BY GENERAL CONGRESS. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE ANY BIO DATA ON NEW LEADERS, WHO ARE AS FOLLOWS:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02387 01 OF 02 261458Z

CHAIRMAN - MAKONEN TADESSE FROM ELECTRICITY
GAS AND WATER RESOURCES OVERALL UNION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02387 02 OF 02 270530Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /056 W
-----004136 270541Z /14
R 261414Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8536
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2387

NAIROBI FOR MATHERON

1ST VICE CHAIRMAN - TESFAYE MAMMO FROM AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES UNION

VICE CHAIRMAN - PETROS KELKILE FROM AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES UNION

VICE-CHAIRMAN - GEZAHEGNE TEKLE-AREGAY FROM WHOLESALE
AND RETAIL INDUSTRY UNION

SECRETARY-GENERAL - TESFAYE GEBRE-MIKAEL FROM
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES UNION

FIRST DEPUTY SEC GEN - GETACHEW MOLLA FROM GENERAL
SERVICES INDUSTRY UNION

DEPUTY SEC GEN - ALEMAYEHU KASSAHUN FROM AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES UNION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02387 02 OF 02 270530Z

CHIEF TREASURER - TIBEBE ASEGID FROM ROAD CONSTRUCTION
AND BUILDING UNION

DEPUTY CHIEF TREASURER - KEDEME TESHOME FROM ELECTRICITY,
GAS AND WATER RESOURCES UNION

GENERAL CONGRESS ALSO ELECTED 3 COMPTROLLERS:

ALEMAYEHU GEBRE-TSADIK FROM AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
AND FISHERIES UNION

BIRUK BEKELE FROM BANKING AND INSURANCE UNION

TESFAYE ZEWDE FROM MINING INDUSTRY UNION

4. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT REMAINING ME'I SONE
HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS WILL SOON BE REPLACED, INCLUDING
THE MAYOR OF ADDIS ABABA, DR. ALEMU ABEBE; PLANNING

COMMISSIONER TAYE WORKU; AND MINISTER OF HEALTH DR. TEFERRA WONDE. RUMORS ARE INDICATIVE OF DEPTH TO WHICH ME'I SONE FORTUNES HAVE SUNKEN. IT HAS BEEN PRIMARILY REVOLUTIONARY FLAME (SEDED), WHICH HAS BENEFITTED FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT IN CIVILIAN POLITICS. WHILE IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER NEW AETU LEADERS ARE SEDED MEMBERS, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THEY ARE.

5. BECAUSE OF SEDED'S CLOSE CONNECTION WITH DIRG, IT IS PROBABLE THAT AETU WILL CONTINUE TO BE MORE OF A POLITICIZING ORGANIZATION THAN A TRULY LABOR ORIENTED ONE. EAST GERMANY AND USSR FORMERLY HAD CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH AETU LEADERS, ESPECIALLY GEDLU TEKLE. IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THESE COUNTRIES PLAYED ANY ROLE IN WHOLESALE TURNOVER OF AETU, BUT SUBSEQUENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02387 02 OF 02 270530Z

EVENTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE IF THEY DID.
WALKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS02387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-0448
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780517/aaaaanmf.tel
Line Count: 193
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f96c3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 2363
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2559262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNION REPLACES ENTIRE LEADERSHIP
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, ET, AESM, MEI SONE, DAETU, (MAKONEN TADESSE), (TESFAYE MAMMO), (PETROS KELKILE), (GEZAHEGNE TEKLE-AREGAY), (TESFAYE GEBRE-MIKAEL), (GETACHÉ W MOLLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f96c3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014